

Menokin  
Warsaw Vicinity  
Richmond County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-156

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VA  
80-WAR.V  
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Eugene Bradbury, Architect in Charge  
Grace Securities Building, Richmond, Virginia

MENOKIN (Residence)  
Warsaw Vicinity  
Richmond County, Virginia

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Owner: Stuart Omohundro

Date of Erection: c.1769

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Colonel John Tayloe

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: Two and basement

Materials of Construction: Stone foundations and exterior walls, chimneys and some interior walls brick, the others frame. The plain exterior wall surfaces are plastered, and the roof is now covered with metal roofing.

Other Existing Records:

Additional Data: Francis Lightfoot Lee (1734-1797), sixth son of Thomas Lee (1690-1750), of Stratford, and Hannah Ludwell, his wife, was born at Stratford and was educated there by a private tutor, who made of him a good scholar with a love for the classics and general literature.

Upon coming of age he settled first in Loudoun County, where he was one of the founders of Leesburg, and in 1765 represented Loudoun in the House of Burgesses.

It was upon his marriage with Rebecca, daughter of John Tayloe II, of Mt. Airy, that he removed to Richmond County, where he was chosen a Burgess, and where he built the house that bears the Indian name of "Menokin".

In 1775, 1776, 1777 and 1778 he was a member of the Continental Congress, and he was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. A recent writer upon the "signers" says, "In the spring of 1779 Mr. Lee retired from Congress and returned to his home, to which both his temper and inclinations led him, with delight. This home was Menokin.

After the Revolution Mr. Lee was an influential member of the Virginia Senate.

The master of Menokin was social and domestic in his tastes, and reading, farming and intercourse with his neighbors and kindred filled his latter days and made his home a centre of pleasant country life. He died there in 1797. He left no children and bequeathed Menokin to his wife for life, and afterward to his nephew, Ludwell Lee, second son of his distinguished brother, Richard Henry Lee.

His wife survived him but a short while, and Ludwell Lee became the owner of Menokin, which after his time passed from the family. (Historic Virginia Homes and Churches; Robert A. Lancaster, Jr.)

Francis Lightfoot Lee died January 11, 1797, on his estate at "Menokin" in Richmond County, Virginia. Supposed to have been buried there or at "Mt. Airy", the seat of the Tayloes, one of whom he married. (William and Mary Quarterly).

The sons of Mt. Airy were inveterate builders, Menokin, Oaken Brow, Powhatan, Chatterton and the famous Octagon House, in Washington, being among their handiwork.

Menokin was built by the Tayloes of Mt. Airy, and was the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, who, with his brother, Richard Henry Lee, sons of Colonel Thomas Lee of Stratford, signed the Declaration of Independence. It is a square ~~brick~~ <sup>stone</sup> dwelling, trimmed with blocks of sandstone of the native soil, and is set on the bank of Menokin Creek, back from the highway. The flower garden, sloping to the creek, once was terraced. Colonel Lee married, April 21, 1769, Rebecca Tayloe, second daughter of Colonel John Tayloe of Mt. Airy. They had no children. They died within a few days of each other, in January, 1797, and were buried in the garden at Mt. Airy. Colonel Lee left Menokin to his nephew, Ludwell Lee, a son of Richard Henry Lee. It now is owned and occupied by the Belfield family. Menokin house itself, except for great wear and tear, remains almost as Colonel Lee left it. It awaits the restorer. (Historic Northern Neck of Virginia; H. Ragland Eubank)

Author: Eugene Bradley.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Addendum*  
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